THE CHAMELEON CONSPIRACY
PART 3
the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
MARVEL
69 LGY# 870
SPENCER
BRISSON
FERREIRA
GÓMEZ
CARLOS

PETER PARKER was bitten by a radioactive spider and gained the proportional speed, strength, and agility of a SPIDER, adhesive fingertips and toes, and the unique precognitive awareness of danger called "SPIDER-SENSE"! After the tragic death of his Uncle Ben, Peter understood that with great power there must also come great responsibility. He became the crimefighting super hero called...

The Amazing SPIDER-MAN

CHAMELEON CONSPIRACY Part 3

Teresa Parker, Peter's superspy sister, has found herself face-to-face with the man who killed their parents--The Finisher. The Chameleon arranged the meeting, but neither Parker knows why.

Peter's too busy to even wonder why, studying under the Lizard at Empire State University. Peter's friend Jamie Tolentino's grad school project is a predictive machine called the Clairvoyant. Jamie's gambled with the device, using the winnings to help his ailing mother. However, flying casino owner Chance and his partner, the Foreigner, want the device and a power source called the Catalyst, and they blackmailed Jamie to help steal both.

Meanwhile, Peter's friend Betty Brant is pregnant. The father is former *Daily Bugle* reporter Ned Leeds, who everyone thought dead at the hands of the Foreigner. But Ned just revealed that some Goblin Serum he took saved his life, and ever since, he's been investigating his killer and just discovered that Foreigner's next target is Jamie. So it's up to Spidey to stop Foreigner and his ne'er-do-wells!

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YOU KNOW, IT WOULD BE GREAT IF FOR ONCE...
...JUST ONCE...
...I COULD HAVE A FRIEND WHO DOESN'T SOMEHOW GET DRAGGED INTO SOME EVIL-VILLAIN SCHEME THAT SPIDER-MAN HAS TO RESCUE THEM FROM.
I SWEAR, WHEN IT COMES TO KEEPING MY WORK AND PERSONAL LIFE SEPARATE...
...I'M BATTING A STRAIGHT ZERO.

I DON'T KNOW HOW JAMIE GOT MIXED UP IN ALL OF THIS--
--WHAT THE DEAL IS WITH ALL THE JACK-O'-LANTERNS--
--OR WHY JAMIE'S HELPING THE FOREIGNER AND CHANCE AND THE REST OF THIS GOON SQUAD STEAL THE CATALYST...
BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
YOU GET SOME SORT OF BULK DISCOUNT ON COSTUMES?
...BUT I NEED TO GET HIM OUT OF HERE BEFORE HE GETS HURT.
THWIP
YOU KNOW, JUST BECAUSE SOMETHING'S CHEAPER...
...DOESN'T MEAN IT'S WORTH IT!
DON'T MAKE A SMASHING PUMPKINS JOKE.
DON'T MAKE A SMASHING PUMPKINS JOKE.
DON'T MAKE A SMASHING PUMPKINS JOKE.

JAMIE! NICE CATCH!
ONCE WE GET OUTSIDE...
...I'LL HOLD THEM BACK WHILE YOU GET AWAY.
HOW... HOW DID YOU KNOW MY NAME?
SHOOOOM
I'M LIKE SANTA CLAUS...
...I KNOW EVERYONE'S NAAAA--
VWAM

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JAMIE--
--RUN!
THWIP
FOREIGNER...
...DOES SILVER SABLE KNOW THAT YOU'RE OUT HERE PICKING FIGHTS WITH SCHOOLKIDS?
SPIDER-MAN, I DO NOT ANSWER TO HER.
STILL, YOU'VE GOT TO THINK THAT SHE'D BE DISAPPOINTED.
WFFF
NOBODY LIKES A SCHOOL BULLY.

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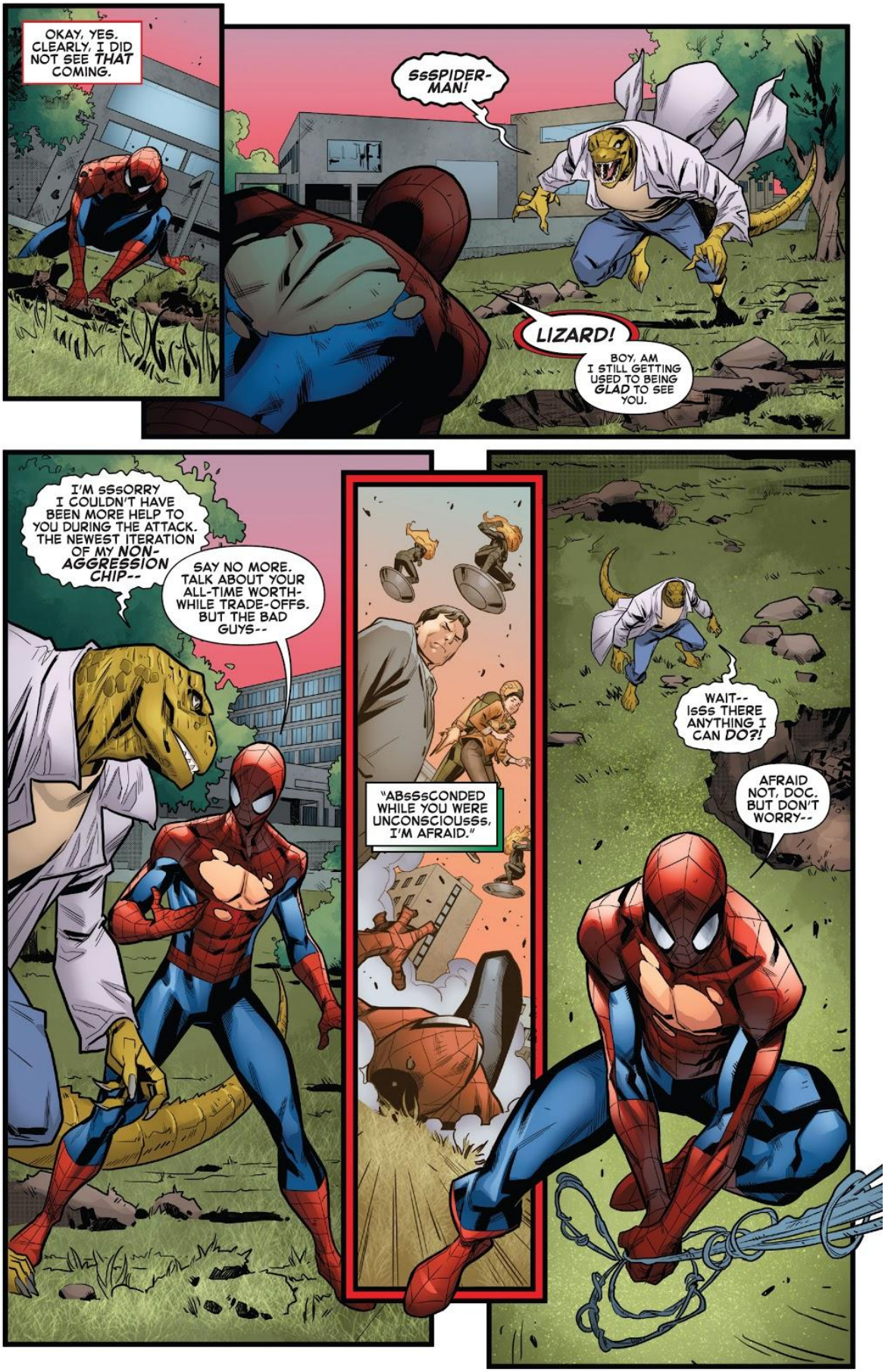
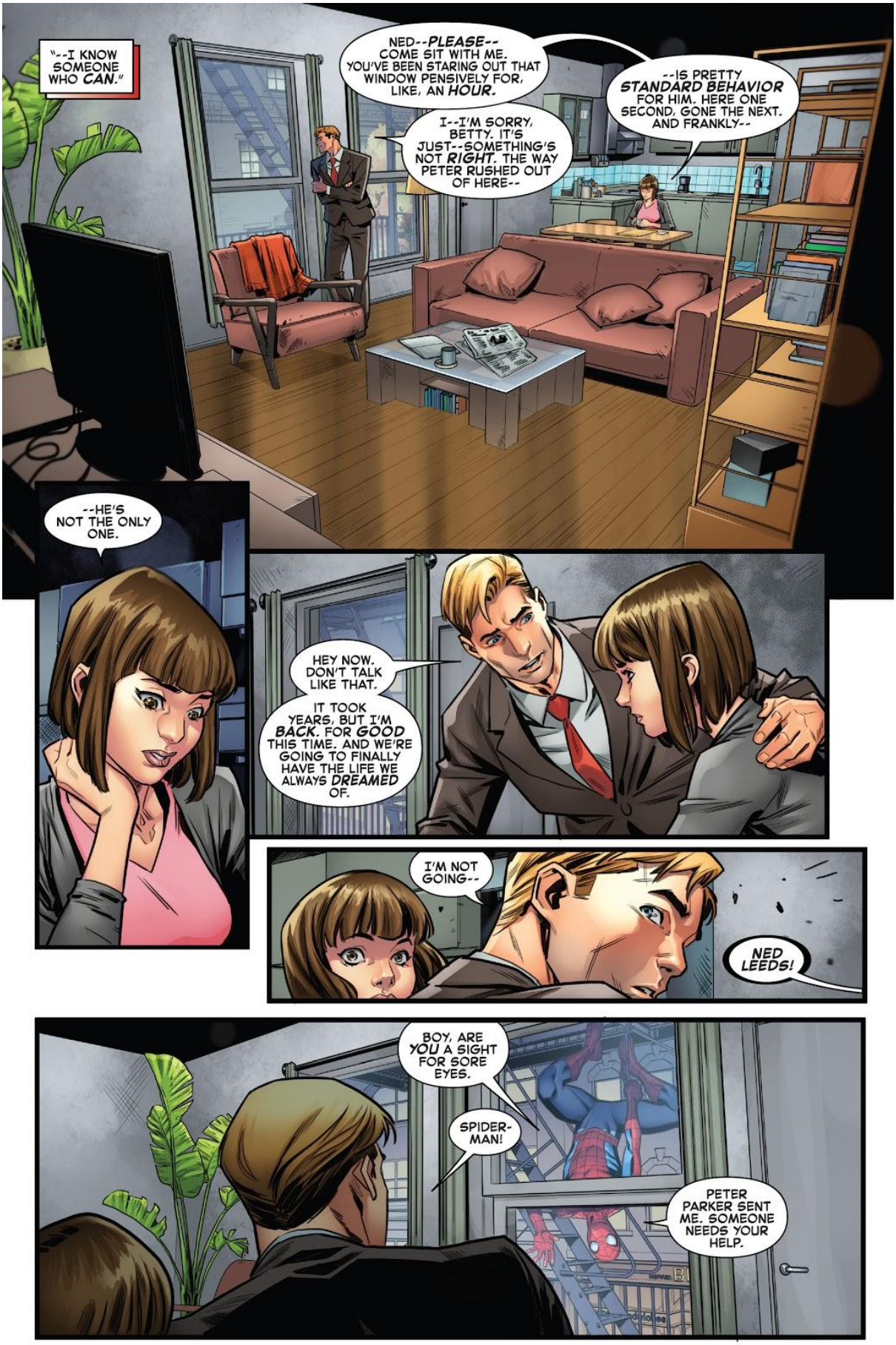
THAT'S IT, SPIDEY. KEEP THEM BUSY. DON'T TRY TO WIN.
KRAM
LET 'EM KEEP COMING AT YOU...
...AT LEAST UNTIL YOUR LAB PARTNER MAKES HIMSELF SCARCE. SPEAKING OF--
--WHAT'S TAKING HIM SO LONG?
I'M SORRY.

SHRAAAAAK

ALL RIGHT, NO POINT IN STICKING AROUND LONGER THAN WE NEED.
WE'VE GOT WHAT WE CAME FOR.

YOU DID GOOD, KID.
WE'LL MAKE A PROPER CRIMINAL OUT OF YOU YET.

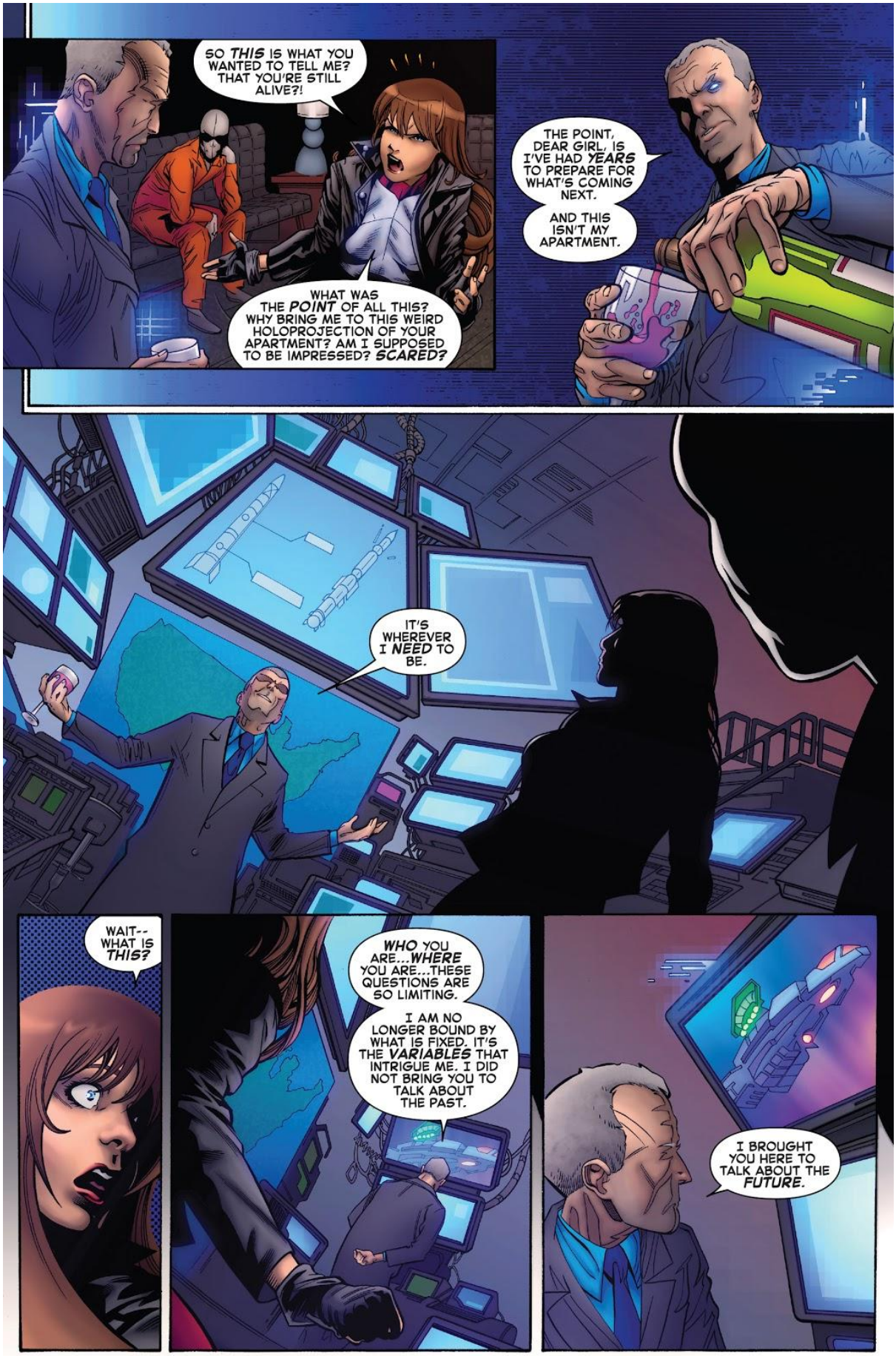

OKAY, YES. CLEARLY, I DID NOT SEE THAT COMING.
SSSPIDER-MAN!
LIZARD!
BOY, AM I STILL GETTING USED TO BEING GLAD TO SEE YOU.
I'M SSSORRY I COULDN'T HAVE BEEN MORE HELP TO YOU DURING THE ATTACK. THE NEWEST ITERATION OF MY NON-AGGRESSION CHIP--
SAY NO MORE. TALK ABOUT YOUR ALL-TIME WORTH-WHILE TRADE-OFFS. BUT THE BAD GUYS--
"ABSSSCONDED WHILE YOU WERE UNCONSCIOUSSS, I'M AFRAID."
WAIT-- ISSS THERE ANYTHING I CAN DO?!
AFRAID NOT, DOC. BUT DON'T WORRY--


"--I KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN."
NED--PLEASE-- COME SIT WITH ME. YOU'VE BEEN STARING OUT THAT WINDOW PENSIVELY FOR, LIKE, AN HOUR.
I--I'M SORRY, BETTY. IT'S JUST--SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT. THE WAY PETER RUSHED OUT OF HERE--
--IS PRETTY STANDARD BEHAVIOR FOR HIM. HERE ONE SECOND, GONE THE NEXT. AND FRANKLY--
--HE'S NOT THE ONLY ONE.
HEY NOW. DON'T TALK LIKE THAT.
IT TOOK YEARS, BUT I'M BACK. FOR GOOD THIS TIME. AND WE'RE GOING TO FINALLY HAVE THE LIFE WE ALWAYS DREAMED OF.
I'M NOT GOING--
NED LEEDS!
BOY, ARE YOU A SIGHT FOR SORE EYES.
SPIDER-MAN!
PETER PARKER SENT ME. SOMEONE NEEDS YOUR HELP.

HELP YOU?!
THE ONLY THING I'LL EVER HELP YOU WITH, FIERS, IS FINDING YOUR WAY BACK TO THE GRAVE.
TSK. I UNDERSTAND YOUR ANGER, AGENT. AFTER ALL--
--YOU'VE BEEN LIED TO FOR SO LONG.
BUT THE FINISHER IS HERE TO FINALLY TELL YOU THE TRUTH.
IT SETS US ALL FREE.
SOME MORE THAN OTHERS.

WE BEGIN WITH THE TRUTH ABOUT ME.
AND MY MUCH-PRESUMED DEATH.
"YOU KNOW THE STORY OF MY ENCOUNTER WITH SPIDER-MAN...
"HOW HE FIRST FOUND THE RED SKULL AND HIS MINION, SANDOR.
"WHICH EVENTUALLY LED HIM TO ME."*
*ALL BACK IN ASM ANNUAL #5! --NL
HE WAS SEEKING REVENGE FOR THE DEATHS OF RICHARD AND MARY PARKER--YOUR PARENTS--
--BELIEVING ME TO BE THE ONE WHO'D HAD THE SPIES FRAMED AND MURDERED.
"WE DID BATTLE, AND HE MANAGED TO GET THE BETTER OF ME THAT DAY--
"--TURNING MY CAR'S MISSILES BACK AGAINST ME.
"I'D ALWAYS HEARD THE WALL-CRAWLER WAS ADAMANTLY OPPOSED TO KILLING, BUT HE SEEMED QUITE AMBIVALENT THAT DAY."
THANKFULLY, THOUGH, HE DIDN'T MANAGE TO BREAK ANY SACRED VOW ON MY ACCOUNT.

YOU SURVIVED.
"BARELY.
"MY CONNECTIONS AFFORDED ME THE BEST POSSIBLE CARE, BUT I STILL DON'T BELIEVE I'D HAVE SURVIVED--
"--WERE IT NOT FOR THE LOVE OF MY FAMILY.
"HE SAT AT MY BEDSIDE EVERY DAY. MY LIEGE. MY PRIZED PUPIL..."
...MY DMITRI.
AFTER ALL YOU'VE GIVEN ME, TEACHER--
--IT WAS THE LEAST I COULD DO.


SO THIS IS WHAT YOU WANTED TO TELL ME? THAT YOU'RE STILL ALIVE?!
WHAT WAS THE POINT OF ALL THIS? WHY BRING ME TO THIS WEIRD HOLOPROJECTION OF YOUR APARTMENT? AM I SUPPOSED TO BE IMPRESSED? SCARED?
THE POINT, DEAR GIRL, IS I'VE HAD YEARS TO PREPARE FOR WHAT'S COMING NEXT.
AND THIS ISN'T MY APARTMENT.
IT'S WHEREVER I NEED TO BE.
WAIT-- WHAT IS THIS?
WHO YOU ARE...WHERE YOU ARE...THESE QUESTIONS ARE SO LIMITING.
I AM NO LONGER BOUND BY WHAT IS FIXED. IT'S THE VARIABLES THAT INTRIGUE ME. I DID NOT BRING YOU TO TALK ABOUT THE PAST.
I BROUGHT YOU HERE TO TALK ABOUT THE FUTURE.

THE PALACE.
CLOAKED CASINO HIDDEN IN THE SKIES ABOVE MANHATTAN.
ALL RIGHT. BOOT THAT BAD BOY UP.
QUITE THE LIGHT SHOW.
YES, IMPRESSIVE.
BUT WE DIDN'T STEAL THIS TO BE ENAMORED BY SHINY LIGHTS LIKE SOME SLACK JAW AT A JULY FOURTH COOKOUT.
HOW DOES IT WORK?
OKAY...
...ESSENTIALLY, YOU ASK IT A QUESTION--SAY...THE RESULTS OF THE SUPER BOWL OR... I DON'T KNOW, WHO'S GOING TO WIN THE KENTUCKY DERBY.
THE MORE SPECIFIC AND NARROW THE PARAMETERS OF THE REQUEST, THE BETTER.
THEN, THE CLAIRVOYANT TAKES THAT REQUEST AND SEARCHES ACROSS THOUSANDS OF MULTIVERSES, PROVIDING YOU WITH AN ANSWER BASED ON THE PROBABILITY OF SIMILAR OCCURRENCES IN THOSE MULTIVERSES.
SO FAR, I'VE FOUND THAT THE SUCCESS RATE IS IN THE UPPER 80 TO LOWER 90 PERCENTILE, SO IT'S WORTH BEING CAUTIOUS WITH--
WE ARE GOING TO BE SO RICH!
BZZZT

WHAT SHOULD WE ASK IT FIRST?
WHO'S FIGHTING RIGHT NOW? SURELY WE CAN FIND A COUPLE OF CAPES PUNCHING EACH OTHER UP? SEE WHO WINS?
WHAT WOULD THERE BE TO PREDICT? ASKING IT WHAT YOU WOULD ASK FIRST WOULD BE THE ANSWER.
OOOOH, MAYBE WE CAN ASK THE CLAIRVOYANT IF IT CAN PREDICT WHAT WE'LL ASK IT FIRST?
I MEAN, AFTER THAT ONE.
GEEZ.
SO MANY POSSIBILITIES THAT THE MIND RACES TO CHOOSE JUST ONE.
TELL YOU WHAT...
...WHY'NT I TAKE THIS OFF YOUR HANDS?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!
IF ONLY YOU'D TALKED LESS AND ASKED MORE, THEN YOU MIGHT'VE FIGURED OUT...

...THAT THE JACK-O'-LANTERNS AND HALF THE FOLKS IN THIS CASINO...
...WORK FOR THE FINISHER.

WAIT-- WHERE ARE WE NOW?
SOMEWHERE OF GREAT IMPORTANCE.
TO ALL OF US.
TEACHER...
I TOLD YOU I NEVER WANTED TO COME BACK TO THIS PLACE.
I UNDERSTAND, DMITRI. I KNOW THIS IS PAINFUL. BUT WE MUST ALL FACE OUR DEMONS--
--HOWEVER GREAT THEIR NUMBER.
NOW, AGENT PARKER--
--LET'S DISCUSS THE TRUTH ABOUT YOU.
TO BE CONTINUED!